

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

8. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising:
  - a first substrate;
  - a second substrate counter to said first substrate;
  - a switching element disposed on said first substrate;
  - a first alignment layer formed over said switching element;
  - a second alignment layer formed over said second substrate, wherein said first and second alignment layers are rubbed in rubbing directions; and
  - a light modulating layer disposed between said first and second substrates, wherein the light modulating layer comprises an anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material having a thresholdless voltage-transmittance characteristic, wherein said first and second alignment layers are combined with said liquid crystal material so that a shifted angle between the extending direction and an optical axis of a *batonnet* is within  $\pm 1$  degree; and
  - wherein a surface tension of each of said first and second rubbed alignment layers is between about 49 dyn/cm and about 53 dyn/cm.

9. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising:
  - a first substrate;
  - a second substrate counter to said first substrate;
  - a switching element disposed on said first substrate;
  - a first alignment layer formed over said switching element;
  - a second alignment layer formed over said second substrate, wherein said first and second alignment layers are rubbed in rubbing directions;
  - a light modulating layer disposed between said first and second substrates, wherein the light modulating layer comprises an anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material having a thresholdless voltage-transmittance characteristic, and
  - a filter formed on said second substrate, wherein said filter allows specific wavelength of light to pass,
    - wherein said first and second alignment layers are combined with said liquid crystal material so that a shifted angle between the extending direction and an optical axis of a *batonnet* is within  $\pm 1$  degree; and
    - wherein a surface tension of each of said first and second rubbed alignment layers is between about 49 dyn/cm and about 53 dyn/cm.

10. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 8, wherein the phase of said anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material comprises Iso, SA and SC.

11. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 9, wherein the phase of said anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material comprises Iso, SA and SC.

12. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 8, wherein said first and second alignment layers are rubbed in a direction which is substantially parallel to a direction shifted from the normal direction of said light modulating layer and wherein the rubbing direction of said first alignment layer is different from the rubbing direction of said second alignment layer.

13. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 9, wherein said first and second alignment layers are rubbed in a direction which is substantially parallel to a direction shifted from the normal direction of said light modulating layer and wherein the rubbing direction of said first alignment layer is different from the rubbing direction of said second alignment layer.

14. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 8, wherein the difference in rubbing directions is about 10 degrees.

15. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 9, wherein the difference in rubbing directions is about 10 degrees.

16. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 8, wherein the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said first substrate is substantially coincident with the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said second substrate.

17. (New) The liquid crystal display element of claim 9, wherein the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said first substrate is substantially coincident with the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said second substrate.